

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04687 170948Z

13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 NEA-10 AF-10 DRC-01 /143 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7565

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 4687

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OGEN YO XF

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

1. YUGOSLAV PRESS OCT 16 DEVOTES MAIN COVERAGE TO TITO-BOUMEDIENNE TALKS AND OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ON VISIT, CITING NON-ALIGNED SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE. ALSO DOMINATING LOCAL NEWS ARE CONTINUING REPORTS FROM WAR FRONTS, CURRENTLY EMPHASIZING MILITARY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST FOR ARABS IN NEWLY-FOUND UNITY IN WAR EFFORT.

2. LEADING BELGRADE DAILY POLITIKA OCT 16 (PAGE ONE) CARRIES WITHOUT COMMENTARY BRIEF STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT U.S. RENEWING ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL. BELGRADE'S BORBA INCLUDES (BOTTOM, PAGE ONE) TANJUG REPORT OF MC CLOSKEY PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S OCT 15 REMARKS HEADLINED "FIRMER ATTITUDE OF U.S.," WITH SUBTITLE: "MC CLOSKEY DID NOT ANSWER WHETHER U.S. READY TO INTERVENE IN PRESENT CONFLICT." POLITIKA (PAGE 3) CARRIES REPORT "FROM FOREIGN AGENCIES" ON PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WITH STATEMENT THAT NIXON SPEECH "IS UNDERSTOOD AS GIVING ISRAEL FIRM GUARANTEES THAT ITS INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY WILL NOT BE ENDANGERED."

3. POLITIKA'S NY CORR JURIJ GUSTINCIC, IN OCT 16 COMMENTARY, UNCLASSIFIED

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WRITES THAT U.S. ATTITUDES ON WAR COULD BE SHIFTING "BEHIND

THE SCENES" TOWARD CEASE-FIRE ON CURRENT BATTLELINES," WHICH WOULD NEITHER BE OLD FRONTIERS NOR HUMILIATING SYMBOL OF ARAB DEFEAT IN SIX-DAY WAR." GUSTINCIC REPORTS VIEW OF WASHINGTON "OBSERVERS" THAT ISRAELI AIR LOSSES WILL BE REPLACED ONLY SO FAR AS TO INSURE ITS CONTINUED EXISTENCE AND "FAR FROM ONE TO ONE BASIS."

4. "RED" TANJUG OCT 14 CARRIED REUTERS REPORTS OF SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS OF YUGOSLAVIA IN TRANSPORTING MATERIAL TO ARAB FRONT AGAINST ISRAEL, WITH LANDING AT TITOGRAĐ. ALSO REPORTED WAS AFP STORY OF INCREASED AIR TRAFFIC IN SOUTH ADRIATIC AREA.
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